REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 6, 2007. Claims 1-40 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 19 are in independent form. Claims 4-8, 11, 22-26 and 29 were amended as to matters of form or to maintain consistency of terminology; no change in scope is intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 18-32 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,474 (Carter). Claims 15-17 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,506 (Kalra).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 19 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of processing a digital signal identified by a

unique identifier in a distributed communication network composed of several communication apparatuses. The method includes the steps of: (1) storing at least a part of the data constituting the identified digital signal in a local storage located in one of the apparatuses; and (2) managing two descriptors related to the unique identifier within the local storage, including a first descriptor which provides a description of the data constituting the identified digital signal and a second descriptor which is dependent on the first descriptor and representative of the part of the data stored in the local storage.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 is managing two descriptors related to the unique identifier within the local storage, including a first descriptor which provides a description of the data constituting the identified digital signal and a second descriptor which is dependent on the first descriptor and representative of the part of the data stored in the local storage.

Carter relates to a network system for providing a shared client-side web cache that is shared by a group of users. The network system include a plurality of network nodes that access a memory space storing a structured store of data, such as a structured file system or database. Each node includes at least a data control program that accesses and manages the structured store of data, which may be stored in an addressable shared memory. Carter discusses (Fig. 2; column 6, line 11 et seq.) a file system 60 that employs the properties of the addressable shared memory space and is broken down into filesets. An identifier including the shared memory address used by a node to access the fileset is associated with each fileset. Once a node determines the identifier for a fileset, it can access a root directory of the fileset and traverse the entire fileset directory tree to locate the desired file.

Carter discusses stream descriptors that are used to locate and retrieve various pages in the addressable shared memory space that constitute a file. Carter also discusses a file descriptor that contains various file attributes and an address that points to a data stream descriptor, and that the data stream itself includes one or more addresses that point to particular pages in the addressable shared memory space. The various file attributes in the file descriptor do not provide a description of the data constituting the digital signal (see, for example, column 23, lines 26-43). Thus, Applicants have found nothing in Carter that would teach or suggest "managing two descriptors related to the unique identifier within the local storage, including a first descriptor which provides a description of the data constituting the identified digital signal and a second descriptor which is dependent on the first descriptor and representative of the part of the data stored in the local storage," as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Carter.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claim 19 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable Carter for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is

respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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